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# Belote's leadership helped build strong MBA program

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## Belote's leadership helped build strong MBA program

When **Arthur Furman Belote** interviewed for a position at Furman in the late 1960s, he learned that the school was negotiating with Clemson University about establishing a joint Master of Business Administration degree program.

In September 1969, Belote joined the faculty as James C. Self Professor of Business Administration — and immediately was assigned the task of helping to develop the MBA project. When the first students enrolled in 1970, Belote was the program's director. He remained in that position until 1989, then continued to teach at Furman until his retirement in 1995.

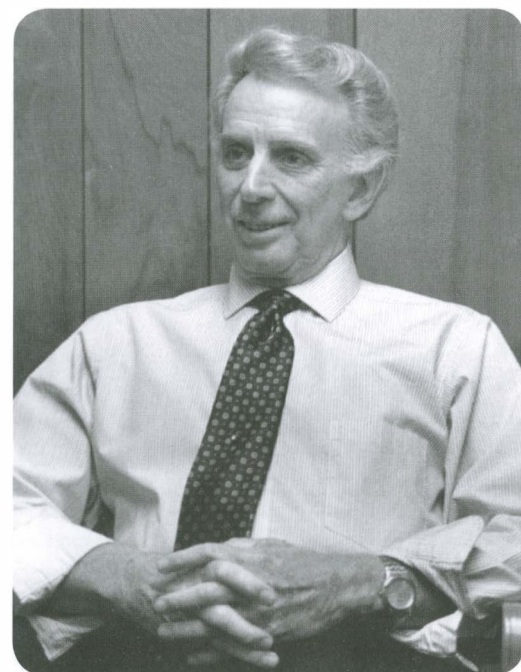
After Belote died August 31 at the age of 84, Dick Stanford, professor emeritus of economics, recalled Belote's instrumental role in developing the curriculum and enlisting faculty from Clemson and Furman to teach in the MBA program. "He was a gentle mentor to the Furman faculty members who taught in the program, myself among them," says Stanford. "The Clemson-Furman MBA eventually became strong enough and well-enough respected that

Clemson could take it over and achieve accreditation from the American Association of Collegiate Schools of Business."

In the early years Belote served not just as the program's chief administrator but also as teacher, admissions officer and registrar.

Bruce Yandle, professor of economics emeritus and dean emeritus at Clemson, says, "The MBA program was his baby, and he did not intend for it or the students to be short-changed. Art cultivated Greenville business sponsors for the program and knew personally each student. But most of all, he herded after the faculty to make sure we understood the privilege we shared with him in being a part of his special program."

Stanford says that, in class, Belote was known for his innovative business simulation model. "Teams of students played roles as company executives who had to make decisions in competition with each other period after period until the end of the term," Stanford says. "Then so-called boards of directors, composed of Furman economics and business faculty members,



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were convened to grill the teams on their corporate performances during the term. More than a few students felt the heat of those grillings, but they were better prepared to enter the corporate world for the experiences."

A native of Newport News, Va., Belote was a distant relative of Richard Furman, the university's founder. He held a Ph.D. from the University of Florida, and before coming to Furman taught at the University of Toledo (Ohio) and Old Dominion (Virginia).

Described by one former colleague as "an inveterate tourist and people watcher," Belote was a frequent consultant for businesses and government agencies. And he was well known for his natty attire. In Stanford's words, "Art always conveyed an image of corporate success to his students, with the implication that they should attempt to emulate it as they graduated and entered the corporate world."

Upon his death, the announcement to the Furman community stated that there would be no funeral or memorial service, then closed with a quote from Belote: "I ask each of my friends to pause a few moments and remember the good times. After all, that is the best memorial of all."

— JIM STEWART

## Singers to team with Boston Pops again

**Keith Lockhart** '81, conductor of the Boston Pops, brought his orchestra to Furman's Timmons Arena two years ago as part of its Christmas holiday tour. The Furman Singers joined in the performance and went on to tour with the Pops to several additional sites.

The program proved so successful that the Pops and Singers are reuniting this year. On Sunday, November 30, they will join forces in Furman's Timmons Arena for a 3 p.m. concert. The Singers will then accompany the Pops to Winston-Salem, N.C., and Newport News, Va., for performances on December 1 and 2, respectively.

The Furman concert is sponsored by Bank of America. Tickets, at \$25 and \$50, are on sale at the Timmons Arena Box Office and all Ticketmaster outlets. For information, call (864) 294-3097 or visit [www.timmonsarena.com](http://www.timmonsarena.com) or [www.bostonpops.com](http://www.bostonpops.com).